

physical size and has started to take in unincorporated neighborhoods and commercial areas to the east. A consequence of this growth and change in community character has been an emerging need to redefine the City's identity and help set a course for the future that reflects the values of its citizens. Recognizing this challenge, the City of Hillsboro conducted an extensive public discussion to develop a vision and action plan for the next 20 years.

This community-wide effort, the Hillsboro 2020 Vision Project, was conducted over three years (1997–2000) and involved hundreds of citizens and dozens of community interests including business, environment, neighborhoods, social services, healthcare, education, government, and many others. The product of this endeavor was a Vision Statement, describing Hillsboro in 2020, and an Action Plan identifying the programs and projects necessary to achieve that vision.

The project involved an extensive public participation program including a citizen task force that advised the City on the project and developed the recommended Vision and Action Plan. In addition, the general public and various interest groups were engaged through a broad range of outreach activities such as public workshops and forums, newsletters, presentations to community groups, and focus groups. Over 1500 citizens participated in the Vision planning process.

The Action Plan lists 114 actions and 46 strategies to bring the Vision to life. The plan outlines opportunities to enhance community identity, connections, and livability—ranging from such projects as a historic downtown district with a public square to an expanded system of pedestrian and bike paths and many others. During the plan's development, 18 community partners agreed to take the lead on one or more of the actions. Many of these actions will require the formation of public-private partnerships. Implementation of the Hillsboro 2020 Vision implementation will be a community-wide effort.

A 21-member citizen-led committee, appointed by the City Council, will monitor and facilitate the Vision's implementation, assuring that the Vision will transition from a plan, to a reality.

I commend the City of Hillsboro for its vision and hard work to ensure that Hillsboro re-

mains a wonderful place to live and work. Congratulations on your receipt of this prestigious award!

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CELEBRATING THE 75th JUBILEE  
OF THE CARMELITE SISTERS OF  
THE MOST SACRED HEART OF  
LOS ANGELES

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**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 24, 2002*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and congratulate the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles on their 75th Jubilee.

Founded in Mexico in 1921 by Mother Luisa Josefa of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Carmelite Sisters arrived in Los Angeles in 1927. Their mission since inception has been to devote their lives to works of charity, specifically in the fields of health care, education, child care, and retreat work.

In its 75 years, the Carmelite Sisters have provided numerous services to the Los Angeles community, especially residents of the 31st Congressional District. The Carmelite Sisters are responsible for the vitality of critical institutions such as Santa Teresita Hospital, five parochial schools and two high schools, as well as a child care facility and a retreat house. These institutions provide services that are essential to my district where adequate access to health care, education, and child care is a major concern.

Once again, I congratulate and commend the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles on their 75th Jubilee, and for serving the health, educational, and child-care needs of the residents of the San Gabriel Valley.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOANN FALK

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**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 24, 2002*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a profound sense of appreciation and pride that I

bring to your attention the good works of JoAnn Falk of Pueblo, Colorado: the devotion she has shown to the students and educators of Pueblo District 70 has proven her to be a shining example of the power of education in the lives of our nation's youth. JoAnn was recently awarded the National Education Association's 'Education Support Professional (ESP) of the Year Award,' itself a moving tribute to the value of her nearly thirty years of work for public education in my state.

JoAnn has dedicated her life to causes greater than her own self-interest. As an educator, she has fought for the rights and respect her fellow education support professionals deserve. JoAnn has worked hard to recruit school board candidates responsive to the needs of classified employees and continually held the needs of her students as her top priority. She has been persistent in these undertakings, never allowing the word 'no' to stop her from striving for what she knows in her heart is right.

JoAnn Falk is, herself, a tribute to the many hardworking education support professionals throughout our nation. Over her many years of work in Pueblo District 70, JoAnn has demonstrated a commitment to the development of school programs and the role of ESP employees. Among her accomplishments is the establishment of an innovative new substitute teacher program as well as her creation of the first Elementary School Media Center in all of Pueblo.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a grateful heart that I rise to pay tribute to the work done by JoAnn Falk on behalf of the children and educators of Pueblo District 70. Her career in education is a testament to the values, sacrifice and commitment that make Colorado, and America, great. She richly deserves the recognition she has recently received from the National Education Association. I am proud to convey to JoAnn the respect and praise of this body of Congress.